

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement applauding the creation of Orange County’s Vietnamese community board. Members of the Vietnamese community turned out in record numbers to participate in the board’s inaugural election.

“I applaud the Vietnamese community for coming together to create this new board, the first of its kind in Orange County,” said Rep. Sanchez, who Co-Chairs the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam. “Through this board, Vietnamese-Americans will be able to work together and with other groups to tackle the issues that are important to all of us. I look forward to working with the new board as we continue our efforts to strengthen small businesses, provide quality, affordable health care to Orange County families, and combat human rights violations in Vietnam.”

*Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez is proud to represent California’s 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes one of the largest Vietnamese communities outside of Vietnam. Throughout her time in Congress, Rep. Sanchez has been a strong and vocal advocate for religious freedom and social justice in Vietnam. She believes Vietnam’s government must be held accountable for its human rights violations before viable economic relations can be pursued and has urged the State Department to place Vietnam back on its Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) list. She continues to call for the release of detained and imprisoned human rights and democracy advocates, including Tran Khai Than Thuy, Pham Thanh Nghien, and Le Thi Cong Nhan.*

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